

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 DRC-01 IO-14

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R 270817Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1352

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 04848

STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EEC, FR, GW

SUBJECT: FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR EUROPEAN ENERGY AGENCY

REF: LUXEMBOURG 176

1. DURING A CALL ON FOREIGN OFFICE DEPUTY ASSISTANT
SECRETARY LAUTENSCHLAGER, THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL
MINISTER RAISED THE ISSUE OF EC ENERGY POLICY IN
GENERAL AND THE FRENCH POSITION TOWARD IT IN
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PARTICULAR. LAUTENSCHLAGER MADE NO REFERENCE TO
THE SPECIFIC PROPOSAL DESCRIBED IN REFTEL. HE DID

SAY, HOWEVER, THAT THE FRENCH HAD BEEN PUSHING WITHIN THE EC FOR THE ADOPTION OF PROPOSALS THEY HAD SUGGESTED AS FOLLOW UP TO THE COPENHAGEN SUMMIT. LAUTENSCHLAGER CHARACTERIZED THESE PROPOSALS AS COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE TO THE FRG. HE SAID THE FRENCH ARE PRESSING FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF THE INTERNAL EC MARKET ALONG THE LINES OF THE CURRENT DOMESTIC FRENCH SYSTEM AND THAT THEY WANT TO HOLD IN ABEYANCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF EXTERNAL PROGRAMS. HE SAID THE FRG WANTED THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL PROGRAMS TO PROCEED PARRI PASSU AND THAT IT COULD NOT AGREE TO THE TYPE OF CLOSED INTERNAL SYSTEM THE FRENCH ARE PROPOSING.

2. LAUTENSCHLAGER SAID THE FRENCH REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ENERGY COORDINATING GROUP WAS CAUSING GREAT DIFFICULTIES FOR THE EIGHT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EC ENERGY POLICY. HE SAID THAT WHEN THE NINE MEET TOGETHER THE FRENCH ARGUE THAT THE EIGHT HAVE MADE COMMITMENTS IN THE ECG WHICH PROVE TO BE OBSTACLES TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMON POLICY AMONG THE NINE. HE SAID THE FRENCH ARGUE THAT THIS WEAKENS THE COMMITMENT OF THE EIGHT TO EC INTEGRATION. LAUTENSCHLAGER SAID HE HOPED THAT THE FRENCH COULD BE BROUGHT INTO THE WORK OF THE ECG IN ORDER TO RELIEVE SOME OF THE INTERNAL EC TENSION.

3. COMMENT: THE GERMANS ARE BEING VERY TIGHT-LIPPED ABOUT THE FRENCH INITIATIVE. OUR CONTACTS HINT AT DISCUSSIONS WITHIN THE EC ON ENERGY POLICY BUT ARE VERY SKIMPY ON DETAILS. THE FRG IS ALSO ADOPTING A MUCH MORE RELAXED ATTITUDE TOWARD EC ENERGY POLICY THAN WAS THE CASE A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO PRIMARILY SINCE THE SHIFT IN THE NATURE OF THE ENERGY CRISIS FROM ONE OF SUPPLY SHORTAGES TO ONE OF HIGH PRICES PLACES GERMANY IN A RELATIVELY STRONGER POSITION.

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